



David Searle Retires



On Friday evening, the 29th August, almost one hundred of us gathered at the Meadowbank Inn to give thanks for the ministry of David Searle who, as you know, has served among us these last five years.

The timing of David and Lorna's arrival, back in 2003, was nothing less than providential – in other words, they came to us at just the right time! And in these years of service, David has been inspirational when preaching and always caring when in your homes or visiting in hospital.

We wish David and Lorna every blessing in the coming years even though we know they will hardly be taking things easy! Once a minister, always a minister! And, of course, they will continue among us as valued members of the congregation.

On a personal note, I want to record my sincere thanks to David. He has been nothing less than 100% supportive of me and has never once NOT been able to help out when I needed him to cover a funeral or make an emergency run down to Ninewells. Beyond that, his advice and gentle wisdom, gained through a lifetime of ministry, have been tremendously helpful to me as I have sought to steer the congregation on a forward course. I'm privileged to count him as a colleague and a friend.

Martin Fair

Ruth Bell

Assistant Minister

For the first time, St Andrew's Church is to have its own probationer minister!



As of 1st September, Miss Ruth Bell became part of our Ministry Team. Coming from Clydebank, Ruth has completed her full-time studies for the ministry (gaining a 1st Class Honours BD) and is now to embark on her on-the-job training. She has taken up residence in the town and will be with us for at least fifteen months, after which she will be free to seek her own congregation. Ruth has done tremendously well in her practical placements to date and in the coming weeks and months we will have opportunity to experience her ministry for ourselves. As an Assistant Minister (which will be Ruth's official title) she will be engaged in the whole range of ministerial duties, from leading worship and preaching, to general pastoral work, bereavement work and almost everything in between!

I've no doubt that you will all extend a true Christian welcome to Ruth and that you'll welcome her into your homes and your hearts. Ultimately, this is all about Ruth preparing to fulfil her call to full-time, ordained ministry. What better place for her to do that than with us here at St. Andrew's!

Kim Marr

Pastoral Care Worker

As David retires from our Ministry Team, Kim Marr joins us!

Of course, Kim has been acting as our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator for some years but now she will be moving into a paid staff position. Her sincere Christian commitment together with her professional background and her experience gained so far means that she is ideal for the work set out before her and we look forward to Kim developing our pastoral care to the best possible level.

The system remains as it was: if you become aware of anyone in our congregation who has a particular pastoral need, contact Kim. Thereafter, working with the minister, assistant and Pastoral Care Team, Kim will endeavour to make sure that appropriate responses are made. Our prayers and full support will be with Kim.



Once again we rejoice in welcoming new members!
Gordon Lodge, Carol Nicol, Alison Lodge, Norma Bennett, Nick Lorimer, Pam Cairns, Tania Lorimer, Alan Cairns, Rosie Hill

CONTACTS**MINISTER**

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD
873238

ASSISTANT MINISTER

Ruth Bell :

SESSION CLERK

Jane Miller : 875235

CLERK TO BOARD

Alison Davie : 431135

TREASURER

Derek Scott : 878305

FREEWILL ENVELOPES

Ian Robertson : 877519

CHURCH OFFICER

Janis Clark : 878594

PASTORAL CARE

Kim Marr : 430505

COMMUNITY WORKER

Chris Barton : 439488

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Sheila Dunphy : 873218

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKERS

Audrey Brown : 439723

Elaine Fair : 873238

ORGANIST

Jane Miller : 875235

FABRIC CONVENOR

Ray Reaney : 07803 235418

SUNDAY CLUB

Elaine Fair : 873238

FLOWER CONVENOR

Ruth Spink : 874690

MAGAZINE ORGANISER

Mary Scott : 873874

PRAYER CO-ORDINATORS

Judy Spink : 872395

Lesley Bailey : 436751

SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR

Norma Beattie : 873442

CHURCH OFFICE : 431135

Monday to Friday : 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday service

ADMINISTRATOR and BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Alison Davie : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

July/August 2008

Baptisms - Adam Zekulin, son of Nick and Karen

Weddings - Jeanette Penny and Bob Webster
Jenna Geddes and James Borland
Sharon Watson and Gareth Griffin

Funerals - No members of St. Andrew's

DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES**OCTOBER EDITION**

Please note that DEADLINE dates must mean exactly that, with all articles and pictures submitted beforehand, or on those dates.

Friday 19th September (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 23rd September (Word-Processed file)

SPREAD THE WORD

Do you have friends who would like to see Quest every month or listen to Martin's sermon each week? Then tell them about our website where they can download Quest and the sermon in a matter of a few seconds at www.arbroathstandrews.org.uk.

Are you virtually housebound and therefore unable to attend Sunday Services? We

record our services and then make a CD that can be delivered to your home on a fortnightly basis. If you would like more information about this, then contact Ken Miller on 875235.

For other members who miss a week or two when on holiday, or for other reasons, our 'digging deeper' sheets are available in print in the church vestibule, or online at our website along with the recording of the weekly sermon.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**SUNDAY**

10.30 am – Gathering for prayer in crèche room.

10.30 am – Choir practice in new hall.

11.00 am – Morning service (with short communion on the third Sunday of each month. Tea/coffee after.

Creche – up to age 3

Infants – ages 3 to 5

Juniors – ages 8 and 9

Seniors – ages 10 and 11

Sunday Club – Elaine Fair (873238)

Teen Scene – S1 to S2

6.30 to 8.00 pm – Sunday evening ICE-BREAKERS – up to age 16

8.00 pm – Sunday evening Youth Group – age 16 plus

MONDAY

11.00 am – Havilah – Drop-in Centre – Church Office (431135)

2.00 pm – Dorothy Dobson Over 50s Exercise Class

6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379)

7.30 pm – St Andrew's Guild : Fortnightly – Joyce Lownie (430053)

7.30 pm – Flower Club : Fortnightly – R Spink (874690)

WEDNESDAY

10.30 am – Midweek Meeting Point – M Fair (873238)

11.00 am – Havilah – Drop-in Centre – Church Office (431135)

5.45 pm – Brownies – Morag Scorgie (01674 820721)

7.15 pm – Guides

7.30 pm – Wednesday@Seven30

7.30 pm – Women's Group – first Wednesdays – Elaine Fair (873238)

THURSDAY

10.00 am – Parent and Toddler Group – Joan Archer (876522)

2.00 pm – Friend's Club : first Thursdays – L Smith – B Gerrard, secretary (434821)

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – J Tasker (874664)

6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114)

7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758)

FRIDAY

9.30 am – Coffee morning, main hall

11.00 am – Havilah – Drop-in Centre – Church Office (431135)

Intimations, changes of address, hall bookings etc., please contact Alison Davie at the Church office, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday Service, telephone 431135.

Printing, tickets, syllabi, etc – W Marshall (873376).

Please call 875235 in the event of corrections or omissions, and an updated sheet will be produced.

Martin



Fair

September 2008

Dear Friends,

From time to time, the news channels make us aware that such and such a people have been displaced from their homes, whether through natural disasters or violent unrest, and as a result have become refugees. Even now, there are almost countless numbers of people – from Darfur, for example – who have nowhere to call home. They live in tents and exist only with the help of aid agencies and the like.

Well, though in a far less drastic sense, we, the people of St. Andrew's Church, are about to find out what it's like to be without a home. Of course this is hardly a predicament when compared to what happens to *real* refugees; even so, it will be a testing time for us. We're so used to our building, so comfortable in it. We know where everything is kept and what rooms our groups and organisations use for their meetings etc. Like a well-worn sweater or a comfy pair of slippers, we like being in OUR Church. In a very real sense, it's our home!

But with the refurbishment plans coming near to starting, we'll need to adjust to being like a people without a home. Now, we're actually going to find out what it's like to be a CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS!

Perhaps that's no bad thing. We say that church is about the people and not the buildings, but do we really believe it? Can we still be a church without a church building? Of course we can! More than that, my belief is that this can be for us a period of strengthening. As our building is being worked on, so we will find ourselves being built up as we find out all the more what it is to have to put our trust in God to be our guide and provider.

In my own journey of faith, a key moment was at a beach BBQ at Girvan. There wasn't a building in sight – only God's own handiwork painted in the setting sun. So, of course, we can continue to worship God and to encounter him wherever we are and whatever the surroundings. And in time, we'll return to our refurbished home, revitalised and all the more appreciative of who we are as a church and of what we have in being together.

When at their best, God's people have always understood what it is to be a pilgrim people, a people on the move. Our very definition of being 'Christian' is to do with following after Jesus, not staying put. So St. Andrew's Church is going to be on the move. Change is coming. But some things stay the same and we're going to continue to endeavour to follow Jesus no matter that we be a people without a home

So let us stick together and with real excitement let us move forward into this new exciting chapter of our story. With God, the best is always still to come!

God bless,
Martin, Elaine, Callum, Andrew, Fraser and Flossie!

MartinFair@aol.com

And More From Ruth ...

Hi, my name is Ruth Bell, I am 26 years old, and until recently lived in Clydebank with my family. I grew up within the congregation of Faifley Parish Church and after finishing secondary school undertook an M.A. in History and Theatre Studies at Glasgow University. Following a trip to Ghana in 2002 with the Guide Association, I explored a sense of calling to ministry and was accepted as a Candidate in 2005; and returned to University to complete my B.D. During that time I enjoyed placements at various local churches, as well as a summer placement as a student hospital chaplain. During my spare time I thoroughly enjoy reading, listening to music, going to the cin-

ema, jogging and playing the occasional game of badminton. I'm really looking forward to meeting you, being part of the life of St Andrews church and travelling with you in the exciting months of change ahead.

7th Arbroath B.B. Report

A new session is about to begin. We are all looking forward to the new session and we will be meeting in the **Sea Cadet Halls in East Abbey Street**. The enrolment evening is on Thursday 4th of September.

Usual times 6pm -7.30pm Anchor Section and Junior Section. Company Section will meet at 7.45 - 9.30pm.

Captain E.J. Matthew M.B.E.

Home and Away - OUTREACH - Home and Away

Malawi Project Update

Mary Scott has arrived back safe and sound from her adventures in Malawi. In fact she so enjoyed it she is already counting the days till she goes back! The Malawi group will be holding a Malawi night in the next month so that Mary can share with you all some of her experiences and give you an update on our projects out there.

This month sees the launch of our Skills Catalogue. A copy of this can be picked up from the front of the Church. Basically the Malawi Group have got together and are offering to sell you their skills for money towards the Malawi Project. Examples are: gardening, hedge trimming, flat pack furniture assembly, babysitting, shopping, dog walking, taxi service, cleaning, catering/waitressing, card making, flower arranging, birthday cakes, football coaching and guitar tuition.

For more info or to book a slot please contact Amy-Louise or another of the Group.

YOUTH GROUP

Next Container for Malawi!

Another crate will be going to Malawi in October so we need you now to start gathering things to go in it and delivering them to the Dunphys by the end of September.

This time we are looking for the following:

Blankets	Lego or Duplo
Wool – especially navy blue	Building blocks
Buttons	Any other children's toys - please ask Sheila first!
Pencils, pens and crayons	School books
Jotters	Football Kits
Scribbling paper	Netball Kits
Colouring in books	Sports Equipment
Removable tattoos	Footballs
Children's clothes / Teen-agers clothes (Girls don't wear trousers!)	Playing Cards
Children's jigsaws	Uno – (Becky has taught them to play this and they love it!)

My Visit to Malawi - July 2008 - by Mary Scott

First of all, I must thank all who prayed for me during my trip. I had a wonderful time and it started with a great send off – thank you - and the journey went very well. At Edinburgh I met a lady who had been a Salvation Army worker in Malawi and her husband was travelling there the day after I was! Before getting off the train at Newcastle, she took both my hands and asked God to bless me and my visit to Malawi.

When my brother John and I arrived at Namisu, what a welcome we received! Two long lines of children carrying a "Welcome" banner and clapping and singing, "This is the day that the Lord has made".

When we reached the summer house there were 474 altogether. They sang and gave us a wonderful presentation and then John and I spoke to them. For once I was almost lost for words! It was such an overwhelming experience.

My first impression was the warmth of the people. I had never shaken so many hands in such a short space of time. I felt like the Queen! - the happiness of the children, and their ability to sit still on the hard ground for such a long time, no fidgeting! And the heat!

They had been working until 4am to finish a guest house and it was beautiful. There was a lovely big sitting room, a large kitchen with a gas cooker (every one else cooks outside on an open fire!), 6 bedrooms with comfortable beds and 4 flushing toilets and 3 showers. The rest of the toilets in the village were a hole in the ground. I visited many pastors' homes but none had a flushing toilet! We were living in luxury.

The luxury ended after breakfast when the truck arrived to take us on our travels to visit the day care centres, one, sometimes two each day. Off we went, bumping along the 'roads'!

It was very hot, but I drank very little because I hated using the 'loos'! A far from clean hole in the ground!

We often stopped to buy bananas or carrots from boys who were selling them at the roadside and I even bought 'Malawi sausages' - whole mice, fur and all, skewered onto a rough stick! I was told that they are a delicacy.

As we arrived, the children dashed out, clapping and singing a welcome. It was amazing. They sang and recited Bible memory verses. One child stood up and said, "When my father and mother forsake me, Then the Lord will take me up" Psalm 27 verse 10. Coming from a little orphan, it was very moving.

The day care centres look after orphans who have a carer and who go home each day. They are given food and schooling. When they return home at 3pm. many of them get no more food until they return the next day. That is the same from Friday pm. to Monday. Yet if they did not get fed at the centres, they would die. Aquaid feeds 4000 orphans every day. John spent a lot of time at each centre inspecting the gardens, watered by bore holes, the water pumped by solar power. The vegetables grown there were given to the children each day.

(To be continued.)



The children welcoming Mary Scott.



The homes that the children return to.

And From Becky's Blog Website

Hey guys hope you are all well. I arrived safely at the airport on the 26th but my luggage didnt make it until the 30th. However nothing was missing and so I have been able to settle in with all my own things. The schools are on holiday so I have been playing football, netball and cards all day every day. Though to be fair it takes quite a while to just live as you have to hand wash your clothes and even for showering it takes a while since you only have a bucket of cold water and a cup! Though i have a little lady- she's 26-called mary chimwaza who comes in every weekday and cleans, collects water and just generally helps me. She laughs at me as i find it hard to sit still if she's cleaning- it just doesn't feel right. she's really nice though and her English is pretty good. She has 2 kids Praise (boy-4) and Hannah (1, 1/2) Hannah is so cute and loves to play with me. Though yesterday when she climbed onto my lap i found she had peed herself and she was all wet! Disgusting! Mary always has 3 sets of clothes for Hannah and always seems to be washing her clothes- no such thing as nappies. I'm trying to learn Chichewa the local language and Freda (a trainee pastor who is doing a 2 month placement at Namisu) Is trying to teach me. My task this week is to learn the Lords Prayer- Believe me its hard. Freda came last week and its good to have some company- she's really nice and translates everything for me, which is definetley, a bonus! My first Sunday at Church i heard amongst a gabble of Chichewa my name before the whole congregation turned to look at me- That was my cue to give a speech i later found out! And last Sunday I was asked to pray during the sermon- no notice- so I got halfway through and they all said Amen. I thought I'd said something wrong but found out from a giggling Freda (who speaks fluent English) that they had mistaken my "And" for "Amen"! I went to visit Lisungue day care centre with Angus on my first week, which was really good though the kids didn't speak much English. They all remembered the Scots and kept asking how my 'sister Leonie was' they didn't seem to grasp my explanation of her just being my friend. But Leonie is in the bad books at Namisu as she has left half the lads heartbroken and hasn't replied to their texts and letters apparently. Shame on you Leonie! I thought it best not to let them know that she now has a boyfriend! I also went to Namarita on Thursday and distributed medicines to their lovely new clinic. We travelled with 5 in the back seats of the canopy King. The medicines took up all of the Canopy King part. Talk about the shakes! Have been having the local staple food Nsima at least twice everyday as I've been having the maize porridge for breakfast- its quite good! Though either the excess Nsima or the totally over the top spraying of Doom fly killer(trying to kill about 3 termites flying around in my room) did something to my stomach and on Tuesday i felt very ill. Despite the Malawians determination to take me to hospital in case i had Cholera. I am now recovered and i'm pretty sure it wasn't Cholera! Though Freda recons she has Malaria so hopefully the mosquito that bit her isn't the same one that's been eating me alive! I do take anti- malarial tough so hopefully i should be safe! I travelled Malawi style- Hanging off the back of a truck- to Lunzu to go to the Maize mill yesterday so I'm really becoming a Malawian! Mary Mpiti even called me her daughter the other day! Though whenever I'm at any village children always wave at me shouting 'Zungu,Zungu' (Zungu is the word for ghost and its what they call white people) Anyway Freda and i have been running a Bible Club for the Children in the afternoons and have been doing Bible studies with each of the Houses at night time. Its been good and quite a lot of kids have become Christians. I have also been painting my room and the toilet and they are now a lovely blue colour! In the last couple of days i have been allowed to shower at the new guesthouse, which by the way is beautiful. They even have hot showers, which is such a luxury! However that will stop as decoration is now starting until the end of September so I will have to go back to my cold bucket! Have been training hard in the mornings when it is still cool so I hope to come back fitter than ever. i get up at 5am every morning-except Sundays- to train Its still pitch black at that time and reps are hard on the uneven ground (I've fallen a couple of times!) However it slowly gets brighter until full light by about 6.15 when I finish my training. The sunrises and sunsets are absolutely gorgeous and make it all the more worthwhile getting up so early! Have been trying to find a training partner, which is hard since i put of 2 of my best prospects by annihilating them on a 7 mile run to Lunzu and back. Unfortunately that was a hard run to start them on especially for footballers who never run more than 50m in a game. however this morning I ran 4 miles with a guy called Sandrek and he kept up so that looks good.

For anyone who is interested my exams went well and i got into Queen Margaret- my first choice! So I'm having a great time and hope everyone back home is too.

Lots of Love
Becky

Home Groups

Though we have had home groups in one form or another for quite a few years now, last year we made a concerted effort to get as many people as possible involved and to consolidate the groups in such a way as to see them becoming absolutely central in the life of the congregation. In large part, these aims were achieved. A key feature of St. Andrew's Church *is* Home Groups.

Now, we look forward to a new year of meeting together: worshipping, reflecting, praying and wrestling with the scriptures. There are places in some of the groups and we are more than open to working to create more spaces where there is demand.

So, if you're in a group already, time to get going again. And, if it's time that you were in a group, time to get going! Contact regarding the groups should be made with Lawrence Davie after Sunday services or midweek at the Church Office.

LOOKING AHEAD

The following are, of course, the correct dates for our upcoming worships services. Full notice will be given (local press etc.) as and when the venue changes.

N.B. We also have a 40mins. service every Wednesday morning at 10.30am.

Buildings Project Update

By the time this reaches you, the tenders from five companies will have been received and opened (Monday 8th September) and we will be in the process of deciding which one to accept. Thereafter, there may be some negotiations required before a contract is finally signed.

Once we know when the builder can commence work we will begin worshipping at Arbroath Academy. There will then be a two-week 'lead-in' time before the actual work commences and during those two weeks the Fabric team will continue to clear the church and halls as required.

With luck, the work should commence sometime in September but, even if there are some hitches, we certainly anticipate that it will be underway by October. It seems that the work will take a minimum of 6 months but, even so, we should be in our buildings again by mid 2009 and able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of St Andrew's congregation in our beautiful new surroundings.

During the building work we will worship in Arbroath Academy. The church office will be at 27 Hamilton Green (formerly Allan Irons) which we are now renting from Mr Dorward and where we have already begun to store many of our artefacts. We should pay tribute to the fantastic amount of hard work that has already been done by the Fabric team and others, led by Bobby Craig, who have been clearing out our buildings in readiness. At 27 Hamilton Green, they have also been cleaning out, painting, and repairing. There is still so much more to be done but, thankfully, Bobby has planned everything very well and we should manage to get it all cleared in time. There will be some inconvenience, but it will be a small price to pay for what will greet us on our return.

The Mayonnaise Jar and the Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle and when 24 hours a day are not enough, remember the Mayonnaise Jar and the Coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class, picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked if the jar was full. The students agreed it was.

The professor then shook the jar gently as he poured in some pebbles. The pebbles rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. He asked the students again if the jar was full and they agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured this into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else, and he asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes".

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now", said the professor, as the laughter subsided, I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The

golf balls are the important things - your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, our life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else - the small things.

"If you put the sand into the jar first", he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small things, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your kids. Take time to go to the doctor. Take your partner out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and mow the lawn. Take care of the golf balls first; things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand".

One of the students raised her hand and enquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled.

"I'm glad you asked. It shows that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for coffee with a friend".

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7
11 am - Worship Service
8 pm OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 14
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 21
11 am - Worship Service
including short celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 28
11 am - Worship Service
4 - 6pm - **Messy Church!**

OCTOBER

Sunday 5
11 am - Worship Service
8 pm OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 12
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 19
11 am - Worship Service
including short celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 26
11 am - Worship Service
4 - 6pm - **Messy Church!**

David Searle

A Thousand Thanks!

We were brought up in the United Free Church at the foot of the High Street. I clearly remember each of the four ministers under whom I sat as a child, then a teenager and finally as a university student. My mother was a very committed member there. My father, an ordained minister, when not serving in the capacity of locum minister, was usually preaching elsewhere, including the United States, Europe and throughout the UK; he did not therefore think it appropriate to join a congregation which he would seldom attend, though when he had a free Sunday, he always came with the family.

When I was twenty-six years old, I felt an unmistakable call to the ministry and so applied to the United Free Church of Scotland. By this time, Lorna and I were married and had a toddler of nearly two years of age. I had graduated in Arts from St Andrew's University and in Theology from London University, but the UF Church informed me I would have to undertake a three year course in theology at their college in Edinburgh; they could offer me an annual bursary of £30.

Since there was no way I could support my family on £30 a year, even in 1964, I applied to the Church of Scotland. They suggested a one year full-time assistantship on a salary of £600 a year, with attendance at selected classes at one of their theological colleges. So in 1964 I was received into the Church of Scotland and was ordained the following year.

When in 2003 we were planning to retire to Arbroath, the obvious choice of a church to join was St Andrew's. My sister Mary Scott was a

member, and Martin had been assiduous in his pastoral care towards both my parents, including administering home communion for them. We had arranged to move into our new home in the middle of August of that year, though I didn't officially retire until the last day of the month. Mary, knowing our intention was to join St Andrew's Church, contacted me to say that Martin was looking for a Pastoral Assistant and the closing date was in two days' time. So I got my application in with only one day to spare, was appointed and started this new phase of life exactly the day after my official retirement—on the 1st of September 2003.

That was five years ago. What a happy and fulfilling five years it has been for both Lorna and myself. So in this final Quest article, I want to express my thanks to many, many people.

First, to all those who have opened their doors to me when I called. It has been a privilege to be in your homes and to share in your joys and sorrows. Second, to the many members I have been able to visit in hospital; you have all been so accepting of me as I have shared some very special times with you. Thirdly, to bereaved families to whom I have been called on to minister; we are to weep with those who weep and though I know my condolences have been inadequate, you have graciously allowed me to pass through the Valley of the Shadow at your side.

Then the Kirk Session welcomed me into their fellowship, permitting to sit on the sidelines and observe the ongoing work of the congregation; only occasionally did I consider it

appropriate to contribute to their task as ruling elders. Jane has skilfully and wisely guided me in my choice of praise when Martin has generously left me in charge of the services in his absence. And you, the members of the congregation, have put up with my preaching and conduct of the worship, encouraging me with comments which have usually been far too kind.

And what can I say about my 'Boss', Martin? Quite simply, he has been my brother in Christ. We have met regularly together, usually over lunch, and have had the kind of relationship which has been an ever-increasing meeting of heart and mind. In my last appointment, I was called to be pastor pastorum—a minister to ministers; I therefore came to know intimately literally scores of them. With total truthfulness, I can say that I do not know of a single minister I could have preferred to work with rather than Martin Fair. This final brief ministry of five years has truly crowned the earlier forty years!

Finally, my very best thanks go to Lorna. We first went out on the last day of the summer term of 1955. Since then, she has been my closest friend, my severest critic and (since we married in 1961) my darling wife. Her counsel has always been wise; her creativity has provided me with literally thousands of children's addresses; and her comments on my sermons (only very rarely complimentary!) have enabled me to communicate the timeless gospel of Christ more effectively.

So to you all, a thousand thanks! And the richest of blessings as you move forward together with God.

On behalf of our readers, I would like to thank David for all the tremendous articles he has contributed over these years - always beautifully constructed and written, always very interesting, and always with a telling point to make.

Praise Band Leaders

Carol-Ann Thain and David Tarrant

Part of our moving forward as a congregation has been in our increased efforts to use people's gifts and talents. To that end, a gifts and services audit was completed – thanks to those who responded! – and already, as a result of that, some of you have found new ways to serve.

We have, for example, a new member of staff at Havilah and we have a new photographer for recording special congregational events. Others of you will, all being well, find yourselves called on as things continue to progress.

Of particular note at this time, we want to acknowledge Carol-Ann Thain and David Tarrant who have, between them, taken on the leadership role within the Praise Band. They have both abundant talent and passion for contemporary Christian praise making them ideal for this role. As they settle in to their new ministry, we can encourage them in it and look forward to seeing the ways in which they will undoubtedly help us to move forward as a worshipping people.



Golden Week

This August saw our first ever Golden Week taking place – a week of special events and trips for senior citizens. To say that it was a success is to make the understatement of the year!! For that David and Lorna, the organising committee, and everyone who helped in any way – providing foodstuffs etc. – are to be sincerely thanked. Together, they did a fantastic job! Though the week was really one highlight after another, the day trip that included lunch at Crieff Hydro followed by afternoon tea in Pitlochry, was a particular highlight and will long be remembered as a day of wonderful fellowship, sightseeing and good eating!



Elinor MacKenzie (Old and Abbey), Roberta Brand, Mary Coutts, Irene Sim, Olwen McNeill (Old and Abbey)



Molly Deare (West Kirk), Sue Pritchard, Doug and Elaine Hamilton, Earl and Helen Matthew, Alec Spink

Some have already asked if Golden Week is going to be repeated. Well, if the children have their Holiday Club every year, why shouldn't the seniors have their Golden Week every year ?!

Thanks To Mary

As many will know, at time of writing, Mary is now undergoing a major hip replacement operation. Mary still managed to organise and run our usual back door sale despite the pain she must have been in. Our best wishes, thanks and prayers go to Mary.



Back Door Sale Raises Over £4,000

Lena and Wilma raised £1,000



I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Lena, Ray, Iona, Bill, Jane, Gordon and Bert for all the hard work up front and to Bert, Ian, Scott, Maureen and Teresa for storage and to all who helped on the day and made donations.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Lena and Wilma for doing the sponsored walk. The sum raised was £1000. Well done and thanks again.

Mary Nicol.